

**State Board of Education
Summary of Transformation Discussion with Vermont School Board Members
December 18, 2007**

Members of the State Board of Education met the afternoon of Tuesday, December 18th with local school board members from around the state to begin a public engagement process regarding the future of education in Vermont. This discussion was kicked off by the release of *The Future of Education in Vermont*, an education transformation discussion document recently adopted by the State Board of Education. The discussion with local school board members was facilitated by Department of Education staff.

- As you envision a transformed education system, what current practices should be included that best serve the needs of students?
- What new practices should be included?
- What questions, issues, suggestions does the document, *How are the Children?*... raise for you that you would want the State Board to be mindful of in its public policy role and as it moves forward toward next steps in this process?

Local school board members mentioned several *current* practices they felt should be included in a transformed education system.

- maximum local input
- state academic content standards
- action planning process
- professional learning communities
- differentiated instruction
- technical centers

Local school board members also discussed what *new* practices they would like to see in a transformed education system.

- creation of choices for students in their learning
- increased student voice and ownership in their own learning
- focus on thinking and problem solving in the classroom
- new strategies for measuring individual student learning
- appropriate use of technology
- focus on early education
- more support for professional learning communities
- identification of successful school-based practices; incentives for schools that are demonstrating effective practices

Local school board members also discussed their general reactions to the document, *A Step toward the Transformation of Education in Vermont*, and questions it raised for them.

- What are our priorities? Is creativity a core priority? What are the others?
- What are the outcomes we want for kids? Are the standards etc. still relevant?
- How can we determine the skills that kids will need in 10 years?

- Student centered education—what is it and how can we implement it?
- Challenge will be implementing vision system wide.

Much of the time on the next few State Board monthly meeting agendas will be dedicated to similar conversations with legislators and other political leaders, representatives of the business community and other constituent groups. In past meetings, the State Board has heard from students, parents, educators and principals. The public is encouraged to participate in the process—the desired state document can be viewed and comments can be made at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/future_of_education.html.